

**STATE OF ILLINOIS
COUNTY OF DUPAGE
DARIEN PARK DISTRICT
COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE WHOLE**

May 24, 2010

CALL TO ORDER

President Jablonski called the meeting to order at 7:41 p.m. at the Darien Park District Community Center, 7301 Fairview Avenue, Darien, Illinois.

ROLL CALL OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Upon roll call the following Commissioners and staff were present:

PRESENT: Ray Jablonski, Frank Noverini, James Tikalsky, Rob Sarocco
Neil Christensen

ABSENT: None

STAFF: Stephanie Gurgone; Executive Director, Chris Katsougris; Assistant Director, Robert Strickler, Superintendent of Parks, Della Deldin; Superintendent of Finance, Matt Henderson; Sportsplex General Manager

PUBLIC COMMENT AND GUESTS

There was no one in the audience wishing to present public comment.

COMMUNICATIONS

None.

COMMITTEE TOPICS

A. Operational Issues

1. Sportsplex

a. Sportsplex Year End 2009-10 Financials

Executive Director Gurgone reported that the Board received a copy of the year end financials. She reported that the financials are unaudited. She further reported that overall it was a good year.

Commissioner Christensen stated that it was one of the best years the District has had. He stated that a lot of debt was paid off.

2. Parks & Recreation

a. Park Mowing

Executive Director Gurgone stated that this time of year staff begins to receive many phone calls from residents questioning the timing of mowing. She stated that Commissioner Tikalsky asked to place this on the agenda for discussion.

Executive Director Gurgone reported that the summer staff does not begin working until the middle of May. She stated that the District cannot afford to pay additional staff. Executive Director Gurgone reported that staff received a quote to contract out mowing and the expense is double and not feasible.

Superintendent Strickler reported that staff mows from April through October and that the full time staff mows 13 weeks out of the year because there is no summer staff. He stated that overall staff mows 120 hours per year and when it is outsourced at \$21.00 per acre and the District has 158 acres the cost is \$94,500 per year compared to \$10 acre and \$45,000 per year if staff mows it.

Commissioner Tikalsky suggested an inter-governmental agreement with the City or the School District to help mow in April when the District is short staffed and reciprocate when they are short staffed.

Executive Director Gurgone stated that April is a tough month for all agencies. She stated that the problem is that it will still cost money.

Superintendent Strickler stated that the mowing is done during these months, but there is no trimming done. He stated that the parks begin to look better towards the end of May when the summer staff is hired.

Commissioner Tikalsky stated that the Veteran's memorial needs attention with the plantings and trimmings. He suggested looking for a volunteer group to do the maintenance.

b. Field Usage

Executive Director Gurgone reported that there have been a lot of issues with rental groups using fields this year. She reported there are two groups that don't pay for field usage: NYC (uses 350 hours) and DBA (uses 303 hours).

Executive Director Gurgone reported that the hours are down from last year due to lower enrollment in their clubs.

Superintendent Strickler provided the Board with a breakdown of what it costs the District to maintain the fields. He stated that for two people to maintain Community Park it costs the District \$896.72 per month not including mowing the grass.

Superintendent Strickler stated that after it had rained, it cost \$1,400.33 to get the fields ready on Friday, between labor and materials and it rained again making the fields unplayable.

Executive Director Gurgone stated that there have been a lot of issues with the groups this year, for various reasons.

She stated that one issue was that the groups request more fields than they need. Our parks staff spends time preparing the fields, and then the groups don't use them. She said that the District needs to give a warning to the groups that if they had requested a permit and do not use the field that they will be charged.

Executive Director Gurgone stated that the groups are very concerned about the Park District renting out fields to other groups because they want to have access to all fields all of the time.

Commissioner Tikalsky stated that he thought that the District gives youth groups too much for free and that the District should start running their own recreational sports programs.

President Jablonski stated that he did not think that the District should offer competing programs and reach an agreement where both parties are happy.

Commissioner Tikalsky recommended that the District pick dates in the future and start putting together youth sports programs, since this is the mission of the park district.

President Jablonski stated that the District should be running programs but rather than offer competing programs to try to have a dialogue with the NYC first.

President Jablonski stated that he would like to have staff put together a timeline for when it makes sense for the District to offer different sports and then contact the NYC to layout the District's plan.

c. Capital Asset Replacement Update

Executive Director Gurgone stated that she provided an updated Capital Asset Replacement Plan to the Board. She also provided the old plans for development of South Grove Park to the Board. She stated that these were a few years old, and were very preliminary. Executive Director Gurgone stated that based on capital funds, the most feasible year for this development would be somewhere around 2018.

Commissioner Tikalsky suggested selling the naming rights for South Grove Park fields.

3. Admin

a. ADA Accessibility Report

Executive Director Gurgone reported that the ADA Accessibility Report shows all of the ADA issues that need to be fixed throughout the District. She stated that some of the items will be addressed this fiscal year. She reported that some of the SEASPAR funds this year are being used to meet some of the ADA accessibility standards.

b. DPD Year End 2009-10 Financials

Executive Director Gurgone reported that the Board received a copy of the 2009-10 financials. She stated that the District received almost all of the projected tax dollars and that overall the year ended well. She reported that the preschool had a 37% increase in revenue over budget.

Commissioner Tikalsky suggested that since the City sales tax is up 10% that the District should ask the City to repeal the utility tax.

Executive Director Gurgone stated that the City agreed to rebate the increase in utilities for the current fiscal year and that she would inquire about future years.

c. Budget Line Item Adjustment

Executive Director Gurgone reported that the Board received a copy of the annual budget line item adjustments that are necessary for the 2009-10 Budget. She reported that by Ordinance the District must not exceed 10% of any appropriated expenditure.

Executive Director Gurgone stated that the Board has the authority to transfer between the various line items but the end difference is zero as the line items are adjusted up and down to balance.

Executive Director Gurgone reported that this will be placed on the consent agenda for the June 14, 2010 Board Meeting.

d. Reserves Transfer

Executive Director Gurgone announced that this is to allow excess reserves in both the corporate and recreation funds to be transferred to the capital account to hold for payment towards the large capital expense payout to District #61 in 2017.

Executive Director Gurgone reported that this would be placed on the consent agenda for the June 14, 2010 Board Meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no one in the audience wishing to present public comment.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further discussion, Commissioner Sarocco moved, duly seconded by Commissioner Tikalsky that the meeting be adjourned. Upon voice vote the Motion was thereby carried.

The meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Ray Jablonski, President
Darien Park District

Frank Noverini, Secretary
Darien Park District